

FALLEN GREATNESS.

A Washington Character Poor, Almost to Death's Door, but Proud to the Very Parlor of the Palace.

The Washington Republican prints the following story, and though vouched for as being true, reads more like a romance than anything else:

A queer little old man with straggling white locks, and a form bent almost double by age, has been a familiar spectacle in the public parks of Washington for several months. He had studiously avoided announcing his proper name on any occasion, and is known only by the slang titles of "nosey" and "old man." The former appellation was given him by the street gossips, among whom he is well known. It was doubtless suggested by his prominent and almost beak-like Roman nose, which is a distinguishing feature of this otherwise human oddity. During the summer months his lodging place was on settees in the city park. The chilly blasts of winter have denied him that privilege now, and now the "old man" is compelled to seek quarters where Jack Frost cannot force the temperature down to a point of absolute frigidity. He was met by a reporter in front of an uptown restaurant. A handful of crackers and cheese, which he munched at rapid intervals, told the story of his raid on some free lunch counter. "Yes, sir," he said, in answer to the reporter's interrogatory; "you have not been misinformed. My name figures many times in the histories of the United States. Beyond that I will not say. Your looks tell me that you do not understand my motives for thus concealing my identity. The answer is simple. Pride—manhood! Is not that sufficient?"

The last words were uttered in an emotional, almost tragical manner. They revealed, too, that the speaker was a man of more than ordinary intelligence and learning.

"But I am not yet a beggar, sir; not yet," he continued, in a scarcely less emotional manner, "although I am very, very poor. The boot-blacks and newsboys are my friends. They have not yet forsaken 'Old Nosey,' as I have been good-naturedly christened by them. The boys bring me customers, people who cannot write. I write letters for them, and sometimes make out bills. I carry my tools with me. (Here he produced a bottle of ink, pen, envelopes, and note paper from an inside coat pocket.) My charge for writing a letter ranges from ten to twenty-five cents. Business is never brisk, though, for literary people have very little correspondence."

The reporter here hinted a desire to know where the scribe slept.

"Where do I sleep at night? Well, I hardly know how to answer that question. My list of lodging places is long. In hallways sometimes, and often in the corridors of second-rate hotels. During the summer time I slept in the parks. The watchmen all knew the old man and never interfered with him. You don't know how pleasant it was. The cool, sighing breezes, glorious sunsets, showering their baths of golden beauty and mellow crimson through the leafy coverlets overhead. Then the pretty little birds, hopping about with merry chirps or singing sweet songs to me from swaying boughs. To awake amidst such a scene was glorious. Why, even my morning wash at the fountain was grand and refreshing. The air laden with perfume from the flowers impregnated the very water, and made it appear as delicate cologne emitted from an enchanted fountain, more mystic and heavenly than any described in the 'Arabian Nights.' But the play is over now. Grim winter, with icy locks and freezing blasts, has curtailed the scene with murky, ashen clouds, and of all the actors in those scenes I alone am left, and probably never to enjoy such beauties of nature again. This old frame cannot stand much more. Cold winter is relentless. Death and winter are conspirators in a common cause. To the poor, winter is an enemy—death a friend. 'Why do I not seek lodgings at the station houses? Because to do that would be to announce myself a vagrant and to mingle with tramps. I am neither, sir, but a gentleman, poor almost to death's door, but proud to the very parlor of the palace.'

Here he was considerably agitated, and his long, boney forefinger involuntarily pointed toward the Capitol building, as he said in a husky tone:

"Why, sir, I was once a leader in that—but I forgot. I must not tell secrets now. My diary will reveal all, both military and civil, and it will request that my body be not interred in the Potter's field, for I am proud even unto death."

"Come on, Nosey," interrupted a newsboy, "here's a cullud man wot wants yer to write a letter for him, an' he's goin' to pay yer in hard cash, too."

The invitation was accepted with a pleasant "Good-day, sir," and the old Congressman, statesman and general, perhaps, ambled along behind his little friend, and turned out of sight into a neighboring alley.—Washington Republican.

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PROGRAMME:

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1. Rondo, Quatuor Opus 16.....Beethoven
Piano.....Prof. T. Radloff
Violin.....Mr. W. A. Weihe
Viola.....Mr. A. Pedersen
Cello.....Mr. L. L. Van Praag
2. Schumann's.....Seuder
Mr. R. EHRLICH.
3. Allegro, Concerto Militaire.....Lipinski
Mr. W. E. WEIHE.
4. Angel's Serenade.....Braga
MISS FRANCES HAYTON.
Cello Obligato.....Mr. L. L. Van Praag

PART II.

5. Allegro, Trio in D min.....Mendelssohn
Piano.....Mr. H. S. Krouse
Violin.....Mr. W. E. Weihe
Viola.....Mr. L. L. Van Praag
Cello.....Dunkler
6. a. Berceuse.....Dunkler
b. Preghiera.....Dunkler
Mr. L. L. VAN PRAAG.
7. a. Walse.....Schubert
b. C'est l'Espagne.....Offenbach
MISS FRANCES HAYTON.
Andante, Opus 16.....Beethoven
Piano.....Prof. T. Radloff
Violin.....Mr. W. E. Weihe
Viola.....Mr. A. Pedersen
Cello.....Mr. L. L. Van Praag
Mr. H. S. KROUSE, Conductor.

Tickets on sale at the Walker Opera House on Friday, January 11th, 1884, and on Saturday, January 12th, 1884, and on Monday, January 14th, 1884, from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m., each day.

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